

THE VALUE OF THE MINIMUM WAGE OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS (1956-1995)

Year	Value of the Minimum Wage	
	Nominal Dollars	1995 Dollars*
1956	1.00	5.60
1957	1.00	5.42
1958	1.00	5.27
1959	1.00	5.24
1960	1.00	5.15
1961	1.15	5.86
1962	1.15	5.80
1963	1.25	6.23
1964	1.25	6.15
1965	1.25	6.05
1966	1.25	5.88
1967	1.40	6.39
1968	1.60	7.01
1969	1.60	6.64
1970	1.60	6.28
1971	1.60	6.02
1972	1.60	5.83
1973	1.60	5.49
1974	2.00	6.18
1975	2.10	5.95
1976	2.30	6.16
1977	2.30	5.78
1978	2.65	6.19
1979	2.90	6.09
1980	3.10	5.73
1981	3.35	5.62
1982	3.35	5.29
1983	3.35	5.13
1984	3.35	4.91
1985	3.35	4.74
1986	3.35	4.66
1987	3.35	4.49
1988	3.35	4.32
1989	3.35	4.12
1990	3.80	4.43
1991	4.25	4.76
1992	4.25	4.62
1993	4.25	4.48
1994	4.25	4.37
1995	4.25	4.25

* Adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U

Note: Years in which the FLSA was amended to raise the minimum wage are indicated by the shading.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

¹ The 1938 Act was applicable generally to employees engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for interstate commerce.

² The 1961 Amendments extended coverage primarily to employees in large retail and service enterprises as well as to local transit, construction, and gasoline service station employees.

³ The 1966 Amendments extended coverage to State and local government employees of hospitals, nursing homes, and schools, and to laundries, dry cleaners, and large hotels, motels, restaurants, and farms. Subsequent amendments extended coverage to the remaining Federal, State and local government employees who were not protected in 1966, to certain workers in retail and service trades previously exempted, and to certain domestic workers in private household employment.

⁴ Grandfather clause: Employees who do not meet the tests for individual coverage, and whose employers were covered by the FLSA on March 31, 1990, and fail to meet the increased annual dollar volume (ADV) test for enterprise coverage, must continue to receive at least \$3.35 an hour.

⁵ A subminimum wage — \$4.25 an hour — is established for employees under 20 years of age during their first 90 consecutive calendar days of employment with an employer.

⁶ The minimum wage will increase to \$5.15 an hour beginning September 1, 1997.